

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
2 building a central repository of data structures, the data structures provided to the
3 central repository by hardware entities of a computing device; and
4 displaying hardware configuration settings of the hardware entities using a
5 browser, the hardware configuration settings based at least in part on the data structures
6 provided to the central repository.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising changing at least one of the
2 hardware configuration settings in response to input received via the browser.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the hardware configuration settings
2 includes displaying the hardware configuration settings of the hardware entities using the
3 browser running on a remote console communicatively coupled to the computing device
4 via a network.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying further includes displaying
2 hardware configuration settings based at least in part on the data structures and
3 nonvolatile data associated with the hardware entities.

1 5. The method of claim 2 wherein building the central repository further includes
2 providing the central repository with the data structures being described using a language
3 convertible to a markup language.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the markup language is an extensible markup
2 language ("XML").

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein displaying the hardware configuration settings
2 includes executing a translator on the computing device, the translator to convert the data
3 structures into the XML prior to displaying the hardware configuration settings using the
4 browser.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein changing at least one of the hardware
2 configuration settings includes executing a translator on the computing device, the
3 translator to update nonvolatile data associated with the hardware entities with XML data
4 received from the browser.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the hardware entities include at least one of a
2 motherboard and an add-in card of the computing device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying hardware configuration settings
2 includes displaying policy settings of the hardware entities of the computing device using

3 the browser, the policy settings based at least in part on the data structures provided to the
4 central repository.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein building the central repository of the data
2 structures includes building the central repository in a system memory of the computing
3 device, the data structures obtained from binaries being stored in option read only
4 memories ("ROMs") of the hardware entities, the central repository being built during a
5 pre-boot runtime of the computing device.

1 12. A method, comprising:
2 converting hardware configuration settings being stored in firmware of a
3 computing device to a markup language; and
4 conveying the markup language to a browser to display the hardware
5 configuration settings in the browser.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 changing at least one of the hardware configuration settings stored in the firmware
3 in response to input received via the browser.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the browser is a web browser executing on a
2 remote console communicatively coupled to the computing device via a network.

1 15. A computer-accessible medium that provides instructions that, if executed by
2 a computing device, will cause the computing device to perform operations comprising:
3 generating a browser page to display hardware configuration settings of hardware
4 entities of a computing device using a browser, the hardware configuration settings based
5 at least in part on data structures provided by the hardware entities; and
6 changing at least one of the hardware configuration settings in response to input
7 received via the browser.

1 16. The computer-accessible medium of claim 15 wherein the instructions for
2 generating the browser page further include instructions to generate the browser page to
3 be displayed in a web browser of a remote console communicatively coupled to the
4 computing device via a network.

1 17. The computer-accessible medium of claim 15 wherein the instructions for
2 generating the browser page further include instructions to display the hardware
3 configuration settings based at least in part on the data structures and nonvolatile data
4 associated with the hardware entities.

1 18. The computer-accessible medium of claim 15 wherein the data structures are
2 described using a language convertible to a markup language.

1 19. The computer-accessible medium of claim 18 wherein the markup language
2 is an extensible markup language ("XML").

1 20. The computer-accessible medium of claim 19 wherein the instructions for
2 generating the browser page include instructions to execute a translator to convert the
3 data structures into the XML prior to generating the browser page to display the hardware
4 configuration settings.

1 21. The computer-accessible medium of claim 15, wherein the hardware entities
2 include at least one of a motherboard and an add-in card of the computing device.

1 22. The computer-accessible medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions for
2 generating the browser page include instructions to generate the browser page during a
3 pre-boot runtime of the computing device.

1 23. A system, comprising:
2 a computing device, including:
3 a processor;
4 multiple hardware entities communicatively coupled to the processor; and
5 a nonvolatile memory unit coupled to the processor, the nonvolatile
6 memory unit having stored therein a translator to be executed by the processor,
7 the translator to convert data structures corresponding to the multiple hardware
8 entities into a markup language to generate a browser page to display hardware
9 configuration settings of the multiple hardware entities in a browser.

1 24. The system of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a network communicatively coupled to the computing device; and
3 a remote console communicatively coupled to the network, the browser to execute
4 on the remote console, the translator to update nonvolatile data associated with at least
5 one of the hardware entities in response to markup language data received from the
6 browser.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the browser is a web browser.

1 26. The system of claim 23 wherein the browser is to be executed by the
2 computing device and wherein the translator to update nonvolatile data associated with at
3 least one of the hardware entities in response to markup language data received from the
4 browser.

1 27. The system of claim 23 wherein the hardware entities each include a
2 firmware unit, the firmware units of the hardware entities having the data structures
3 stored therein as binaries, the binaries to be contributed as the data structures to a central
4 repository.

1 28. The system of claim 27 wherein the binaries are to be contributed as the data
2 structures to the central repository during a pre-boot runtime of the computing device.

1 29. The system of claim 23 wherein the nonvolatile memory unit comprises a
2 firmware unit of a motherboard of the computing device.

1 30. The system of claim 23 wherein the nonvolatile memory unit comprises a
2 hard disk of the computing device.